

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-04 ACDA-07

ERDA-05 FEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

EB-07 NRC-05 DODE-00 /086 R

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R 030749Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USINT BAGHDAD

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PARIS FOR WILLIAM SALMON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALE OF LWR TO IRAQ

DURING RECENT IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING,
BENGELSDORF HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH DE NAZELLE CONCERNING
THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FRANCE INTENDS TO
TRANSFER A LWR TO IRAQ. BENGELSDORF OUTLINED FOR DE
NAZELLE IN A GENERAL MANNER, THE PROPOSED TERMS UNDER
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WHICH THE USG IS PLANNING TO EXPORT REACTORS TO EGYPT AND

ISRAEL, INCLUDING THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL REPROCESSING OF THE FUELS IRRADIATED IN OUR REACTORS (REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE) AS WELL AS THE STORAGE AND FABRICATION OF THE SEPARATED PLUTONIUM SHOULD OCCUR OUTSIDE OF EGYPT OR ISRAEL. BENGELSDORF VENTURED THE OPINION THAT THERE WOULD BE A DESIRABILITY IN ASSURING A PARITY OF TREATMENT BETWEEN FRENCH AND U.S. ARRANGEMENTS WITH SENSITIVE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, AS A PRAGMATIC MATTER HE OBSERVED THAT ONCE THE FRENCH-IRAQ AGREEMENT BECAME BETTER PUBLICIZED HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE USG MIGHT RECEIVE SOME POINTED QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA AND THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE DEGREE TO WHICH THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS COMPARABLE TO THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT THE USG WAS ENDEAVORING TO APPLY TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY ON THE QUESTION OF REPROCESSING AND THE HANDLING,

FABRICATION AND STORAGE OF SEPARATED PLUTONIUM AND BENGELSDORF INQUIRED AS TO WHAT SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS WERE CONTEMPLATED WHERE SUCH SERVICING WOULD BE PERFORMED, ETC.

WHILE CLEARLY INDICATING THAT IT WAS CONTEMPLATED THAT THE REPROCESSING WOULD OCCUR OUTSIDE OF IRAQ, (WHICH APPEARS COMPATIBLE WITH POSITION GOF WAS CONTEMPLATING FOR EGYPT AS PER PARIS 02551 OF JANUARY, 1976), DE NAZELLE DID NOT GO INTO ANY DETAILS BUT OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE USG WITH INFO TO SHOW HOW PARALLEL OUR TWO APPROACHES MAY BE. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AND TO INDICATE TO DE NAZELLE THAT WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY SPECIFICS THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE IN THIS REGARD. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROBABLE SCHEDULE OF FACILITY AND WHETHER IT IS CONTEMPLATED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUEL THAT ALL OF THE REPROCESSING OF THE IRRADIATED MATERIAL AS WELL AS THE STORAGE AND FABRICATION OF THE PLUTONIUM WILL OCCUR OUTSIDE OF IRAQ.

TO FACILITATE THE DISCUSSIONS WE ARE AIR POUCHING TO SALMON A COPY OF THE FAHMY-KISSINGER COMMUNIQUE ON THIS SUBJECT THAT WAS ISSUED DURING THE SADAT VISIT AS WELL AS OUR LATEST DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATION. LATTER IS SUBJECT TO REVISION AND IS ONLY BEING PROVIDED ON BACKGROUND BASIS FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION. TEXT SHOULD NEITHER BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOF OR QUOTED AT THIS STAGE.

ADVISE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NUCLEAR REACTORS, FISSIONABLE MATERIALS TRANSFER, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 APR 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE080410
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HDBENGELSDORF:LMT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760126-0335
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604100/aaaadieh.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN OES
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRENCH ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALE OF LWR TO IRAQ DURING RECENT IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
TAGS: TECH, ENRG, FR, IZ, US, IAEA
To: PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006